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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Ruth Montalvo

In the event that this paper is late filed and a necessary Petition for an Extension of Time is not concurrently filed herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-1529.

JG-SU-5047/500577.20023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mamoru MIYAMORI, et al.

Art Unit: 1761

Serial No: 09/786,963

Examiner: George Yeung

Filed: March 12, 2001

Customer No.: 026418

For: SMOKING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed , please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- B' 1. (Amended) A smoking method comprising the steps of:
- introducing smoke into a chamber (11) having opposite ends thereof formed with an inlet (11a) and an exit (11b), an electrically insulative curtain (18) being attached thereto, respectively,
 - transporting grounded foods (19) at a predetermined speed into said chamber (11) by transporting means (12), said foods (19) comprising farm products, marine products and livestock products or processed foods thereof, and
 - applying a DC voltage or AC voltage of 7 kV to 15 kV between a pair of electrode plates (13, 14) disposed along said transporting means (12) within said chamber (11) so as